

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 DOE-11 SOE-02  
DOEE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
H-01 INR-10 IO-13 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01  
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 /108 W  
-----052253 182150Z /61

O 182022Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4979  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2018

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM, TECH, MNUC, SHUM, PINS, AR  
SUBJECT: MASSERA SIGNALS SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO  
AND COMPLAINS OF USG DISCRIMINATION

USIAEA

A. SUMMARY: NAVY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MASSERA INFORMED  
EMBASSY LATE FRIDAY, MARCH 17 THAT NAVY HAS RECONSIDERED  
ITS POSITION AND IS NOW PREPARED TO SUPPORT RATIFICATION  
OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. MASSERA OUTLINED NAVY SUPPORT  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS OF INTEREST TO THE USG AND  
QUESTIONED WHY NAVY PURCHASE REQUESTS HAVE BEEN DENIED  
BY USG WHILE SIMILAR ITEMS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR ARGENTINE  
ARMY AND AIR FORCE. (END SUMMARY).

2. IN SURPRISE MEETING, NAVY COMMANDER MASSERA INFORMED  
EMBASSY POLOFF THAT DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION WITHIN THE  
NAVY, HE HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT ARGENTINE RATIFICATION OF  
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TLATELOLCO TREATY. MASSERA PLANNED TO CALL PRESIDENT  
VIDELA THAT EVENING (MARCH 17) TO INFORM HIM THAT NAVY  
WOULD SUPPORT RATIFICATION AT AN UPCOMING JUNTA MEETING.

3. MASSERA EMPHASIZED THAT THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF  
TLATELOLCO DOES NOT DEPEND ON VIDELA, IT DEPENDS ON THE  
NAVY, AS VIDELA IS UNABLE TO RATIFY THE TREATY WITHOUT

FULL NAVY SUPPORT. MASSERA POINTED OUT THAT THE NAVY HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN ARGENTINA. HE CITED THE CHRISTMAS AMNESTY LIST, THE PUBLIC LISTING OF STATE OF SEIGE PRISONERS, THE RELEASE OF MEMBERS OF THE DEUTSCH AND VOGLER FAMILIES, AND A CURRENT INITIATIVE TO HAVE JACOBO TIMMERMAN TRANSFERRED FROM PRISON TO HIS HOME.

4. THE ADMIRAL RHETORICALLY CONTRASTED HIS EFFORTS WITH THE LACK OF RESPONSE BY THE USG TO REQUESTS BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SIMILAR EQUIPMENT HAD IN FACT BEEN PROVIDED TO THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND AIR FORCE AND QUERIED WHY THE ARGENTINE NAVY WAS BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. MASSERA SAID THAT ARGENTINE NAVY'S EFFORTS IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE USG, COUPLED WITH THE LACK OF ANY POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM THE USG, WAS PUTTING HIM "IN A CORNER."

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS: ADMIRAL MASSERA'S PERSONALLY SIGNALING TO US ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF NAVY INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF USG CONCERNS (INTERESTS) HERE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTRASTING IT TO THE TREATMENT THE ARGENTINE NAVY HAS RECEIVED FROM THE USG REGARDING PURCHASE REQUESTS IS ANOTHER MULTIFACETED MASSERA INITIATIVE. FIRST, IT CLAIMS FOR THE NAVY ITS FULL SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR THE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO. SECOND, IF THE RATI-  
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FICATION PROCESS IS DELAYED WITHIN THE GOA, IT SHIFTS THE BLAME SQUARELY ON THE ARMY. THIRD, IT ENABLES MASSERA TO ADD TO THE SMALL BUT GROWING LIST OF INITIATIVES OF INTEREST TO THE U.S. WHICH THE NAVY HAS LAUNCHED OR SUPPORTS LASTLY, IT ALLOWS HIM TO CONTRAST HIS EFFORTS IN RESPONDING TO U.S. INITIATIVES WITH THE FAILURE OF THE USG TO RECIPROCATE. CLEARLY CONTAINED IN MASSERA'S MESSAGE WAS A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT HIS INITIATIVES IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE U.S. COULD NOT CONTINUE IF THERE WAS NOT SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE USG IN MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE NAVY.

6. THERE HAS BEEN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WITHIN THE ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND WITHIN THE ARGENTINE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA), UNLESS THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY AS A QUID PRO QUO. THE EMBASSY HAS DETECTED SOME HINTS AT A CHANGE IN THE GOA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS RATIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS (SEPTTEL). FOLLOWING ON THESE, MASSERA'S

CLAIMING A FULL SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR THE RATIFICATION OF  
TLATELOLCO IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY RATIFICATION, NAVAL FORCES, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TREATY OF TLATELOLCO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Subject:** MASSERA SIGNALS SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO AND COMPLAINS OF USG DISCRIMINATION USIAEA  
**TAGS:** PARM, TECH, MNUC, SHUM, PINS, AR, (MASSERA PADULA, EMILIO EDUARDO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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